

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

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R 180510Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9395

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: CITY GOVERNMENT BOOSTS CONSCRIPTION RESULTS

REF: PHNOM PENH 1858 (301056Z JAN 75)

1. SUMMARY. ACCESSIONS HAVE JUMPED SINCE THE PHNOM PENH CITY GOVERNMENT TOOK BACK CONSCRIPTION RESPONSIBILITY AT THE END OF JANUARY. THE RECRUITMENT CENTER REPORTS THAT 1,900 NEW RECRUITS WERE FOUND FIT FOR SERVICE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1-15 AND SENT ON TO NATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS. ANOTHER 1,100 RECRUITS FINISHED TRAINING (ABBREVIATED TO THREE WEEKS) AND RECEIVED ORDERS FOR FRONT-LINE UNITS. FANK'S EFFORTS TO CLEAR OUT OFFICES AND HEAD-QUARTERS GARNERED AN ADDITIONAL 2,100 MEN FOR THE HARD-PRESSED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORT GOOD RESULTS IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS AFTER THEY RESUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION. RECRUITING FROM THE CITY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1-15 REACHED 1,300, OF WHOM TWO-THIRDS WERE FIT FOR SERVICE. ACCESSIONS UNDER RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS OF THE VARIOUS INTERVENTION UNITS
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ACCOUNTED FOR THE REMAINING RECRUITS FOR THE FIRST TWO

WEEKS IN FEBRUARY AND BOOSTED THE TOTAL OF FIT RECRUITS SENT TO TRAINING TO 1,900 MEN. A CHIEF AT ONE OF THE CAPITAL'S LARGEST KHANDS (WARDS) NOTED THAT GETTING MANPOWER IS MORE DIFFICULT THIS YEAR THAN LAST BECAUSE SO MANY YOUNG MEN WITHOUT FAMILIES HAVE ALREADY JOINED, BUT SAID THAT SOME OF THE MANY NEW REFUGEES ARE VOLUNTEERING. HE ECHOED THE FAMILIAR THEME THAT RECRUITING FOR FANK WOULD BE EASED IF SOLDIERS COULD BE SURE OF RECEIVING TIMELY PAY, FULL EQUIPMENT AND BELIEVED THAT THEIR FAMILIES WOULD BE CARED FOR IF THEY DIED IN BATTLE.

3. IMMEDIATE EFFORTS TO BUILD UP INTERVENTION FORCES CONTINUED TO CENTER ON TRANSFERRING DESK-BOUND TROOPERS FROM SWOLLEN HEADQUARTERS AND OFFICES. SO FAR, THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM HAS NETTED 2,100 TROOPS FOR A SHORT REFRESHER COURSE BEFORE DISPATCH TO THE FRONT. REPORTS FROM THE FIELD SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER OF THESE SOLDIERS ARE OVERAGE OR DISABLED, AND OTHERS APPARENTLY LACK THE INFLUENCE TO HAVE KEPT THEIR SOFT JOBS. THEY READILY DESERT. TO THIS 2,100 MUST BE ADDED AN ADDITIONAL 1,100 NEW RECRUITS WHO WILL FINISH TRAINING, NOW CUT FROM SIX TO THREE WEEKS, BY EARLY MARCH. THIS TOTAL OF 3,300 MEN IS WELL ABOVE LOSSES FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY.

4. NOW THAT THE CITY GOVERNMENT HAS RESUMED THE MOST PROMINENT ROLE IN RECRUITMENT, NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION COUNSELOR UNG MUNG IS TRYING TO MAKE THE JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF INTO A MINI-THINK TANK FOR PROPOSING CHANGES TO DRAFT REGULATIONS. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DECISION TO ENFORCE AN EXPANDED DRAFT ELIGIBILITY TO AGE 40 AND HAS MADE SO FAR UNADOPTED PROPOSALS TO END DEFERMENTS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LARGE FAMILIES, A NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS, TWO BROTHERS IN SERVICE OR ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE/VIETNAMESE MINORITIES. PRACTICALLY, THE JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF CONTINUES TO ISSUE DEFERMENTS TO THOSE WHOSE SITUATION WARRANTS AN EXTENSION OF PREVIOUS DEFERMENTS. IT ALSO CONTAINS A STATISTICAL ARM WHICH HAS, GRADUALLY, BECOME RESPONSIVE TO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND TRENDS SUCH AS, HOW MANY RE-

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CRUITS WERE FOUND FIT FOR SERVICE AND DISPATCHED TO TRAINING CENTERS.
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